and which he had obtained through the kindness of Mr. George F. Kunz. The specimen was of especial interest on account of the report (see *Nature*. Dec. 1, 1887. xxxvii, p. 110) that Professor Latchinof and Jerofief had detected in the insoluble residue small corpuscles having all the characters of diamonds.

The speaker had extracted from the fragment in his possession two small oval bodies with extremely high index of refraction and showing only slight traces of polarization, such as is common to many diamonds. They were colorless and transparent, resembling certain specimens of Brazilian "bort." Having been able to distinctly scratch a polished sapphire with portions of the meteorite, he was disposed to agree with Professor Latchinoff and Jerofief that these bodies were true diamonds. The olivine in this meteorite was also in the form of oval grains and had a deep yellow color and bright polarization. The rounded form of the olivine and the diamonds may have been due to corrosion of the igneous mass. This rounded form is very commonly shown by the olivines in basic eruptive rocks.

While diamonds have never before been found in meteorites, carbon has long been known in them in its graphitic or amorphous form. Recently Fletcher[1] has described under the name of Cliftonite a cubical form of carbon, somewhat harder than ordinary graphite, which he found in an Australian meteorite.

The important bearing of the present discovery upon the vexed question of the diamond is evident. The speaker had recently endeavored to show that the commonly received notion that itacolumite was the original matrix of the diamond is a mistake, and that diamonds really occur in, or in the neighborhood of, basic eruptive rocks.[2] The facts regarding the associations of the diamond in Africa, Borneo, New South Wales, California and elsewhere all point to peridotites or allied rocks as the matrix of the diamond. The similarity, both in structure and composition, of the diamond-bearing Kimberlite of South Africa to meteorites had been pointed out by the speaker previously, and he had, in view of this fact, suggested the search for diamonds in meteorites.

Ctenophores in Fresh Water:—Dr. Benjamin Sharp reported that he had observed in a fresh water pond at Sacheeha, Nantucket, a great number of Ctenophores, in apparently good condition. This pond is occasionally opened to the sea to allow the escape of the perch that breed there is great numbers. The *Ctenophores* without doubt found their way into the pond at such time. As far as he could determine they were the common *Mnemiopsis Leidyi*, unchanged by their strange environment. They not only appeared perfectly healthy and active but were highly phosphorescent at night. He was not

[1] Jour. Mineralog. Soc. vii, p. 121, 1887.

[2] Proc. Brit. Assoc. Adv. Science. Manchester, 1887. (See Geolog. Magazine, March. 1888.)

able to say whether they bred there or not, and until this is proven it is not possible to say that they have become perfectly adapted to the new condition of life. Many observers have noticed that Coelenterata move up rivers, but this is an interesting case, as the transition from the salt to the fresh water must have been very sudden. At the time of observation Dr. Sharp said that on drinking the water he could not notice the slightest trace of salt.

Messrs Henry A. Pilsbry and S. G. Morton Montgomery were elected members.

The following papers were ordered to be printed:—